

Part-Time Research Assistant (Contract: 8 months)
ASEAN Research Center, Asia School of Business
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Date of Dissemination: April 1, 2024

Supervisor: Prof. Melati Nungsari

Overview: This is a part-time Research Assistant (RA) role at the ASEAN Research Center (ARC) based at Asia School of Business (ASB) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In 2018, the UN Refugee Agency funded a project under Prof. Melati titled “Conversational Bahasa Malaysia Training for Adult Refugees”, which resulted in this [textbook](#) being written in collaboration with academics from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). In 2023, the UN Refugee Agency funded a “revamp” of this curriculum, also in collaboration with UPM, in which both the materials in the curriculum were revamped, but also to include digital assets such as instructional videos, to further aid the learning of refugees. The plan for this project is to work with refugee content creators to create a large set of “TikTok-style” videos in 4-8 different languages according to the new curriculum and disseminate these videos in a structured mechanism to the refugees through WhatsApp groups. The target is 4 refugee communities (i.e. 4 WhatsApp groups). There are also physical touchpoints with the refugee learners, to be confirmed later.

Responsibilities:

- Manage all program details surrounding this project, which includes, but not limited to: manage 4 WhatsApp groups of classes and disseminating learning information (phone with data will be provided by ASB), contact refugee community leaders and meeting them at their centers, if needed (travel pay will be covered separately by ASB), conduct validation workshops with refugee communities on a Saturday, manage the production of TikTok videos by refugee content creators and the storage of such materials in the Cloud, etc.
- Document the entire process for the writing of an academic article based on the execution of this novel class format.

Who We’re Looking For:

- Somebody passionate about refugees and refugee studies in Southeast Asia.
- Somebody who is attentive to details, can manage a program, and has good communication skills.
- Somebody who is willing to learn and to be alright with experimenting and failing.

What We Can Provide Aside from Pay:

- The ASB and ARC research communities are vibrant, and you will become a member of this dynamic group.
- We will be able to provide you with a (hot)desk at ARC to work, if you need it, based in ASB in KL.
- If you are interested, you may also co-author the paper on the execution of this project with Prof. Melati.
- A comprehensive look at how to conduct field work with vulnerable groups in Malaysia.
- Familiarity with refugee issues in Malaysia.

Pay and length of contract: This is a part-time contract position. The RA is expected to work 20 hours a week and be based in Klang Valley. The contract length is 8 months and will go from May 1st, 2024 till December 31st, 2024. The RA will be paid a lump-sum of RM3,000 per month for their services (non-negotiable).

How to Apply: Please email Prof. Melati at melati@mit.edu with your CV, cover letter, and 2 references who can speak to the quality of you and your work.

Due Date: April 15th, 2024